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SHIKOU SHOUNEN
"THOUGHT BOY"
BY FUJIWARA KAORU
CHAPTER 7
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lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

CHAPTER 7

genesis

AREN'T THEY CUTE?
THEY ALL LOOK ALIKE
IT'S CAUSE THEY'RE PURE-BRED!
I DON'T WANT A CAT THAT LOOKS THE SAME AS EVERY OTHER CAT THAT'S SO BORING
I CAN JUST HAVE A NORMAL CAT, DAD

THEN GREAT, I DON'T HAVE TO SPEND ANY-THING.

HMM...
SO ON EARTH,
PEOPLE HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR STRAY CATS.
CAUSE THEY'RE FREE

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT'S POPULAR
WE'LL MAKE THE SAME EFFORT TO DESIGN THEM

WELL, IT'S SPRING
108
YOU GOT WORK TO DO
108 STRAY CATS TO BE BORN
THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING A LOT
THEY GOT A DIFFERENT ORDER FORM MIXED UP IN HERE
HAND IT OVER. I'LL PASS IT TO THE CORRECT DIVISION.
IT'S THE ONLY ONE WITH THE DEPARTMENT NUMBER.

THE "HUMAN" DIVI-GION
WHICH ONE?
I JUST HATE THE PEOPLE IN THAT DIVISION
THAT'S PERFECT, THANKS.
HE'S NOT A BAD GUY
OH, I KNOW SOMEONE FROM THERE
SEE YOU LATER

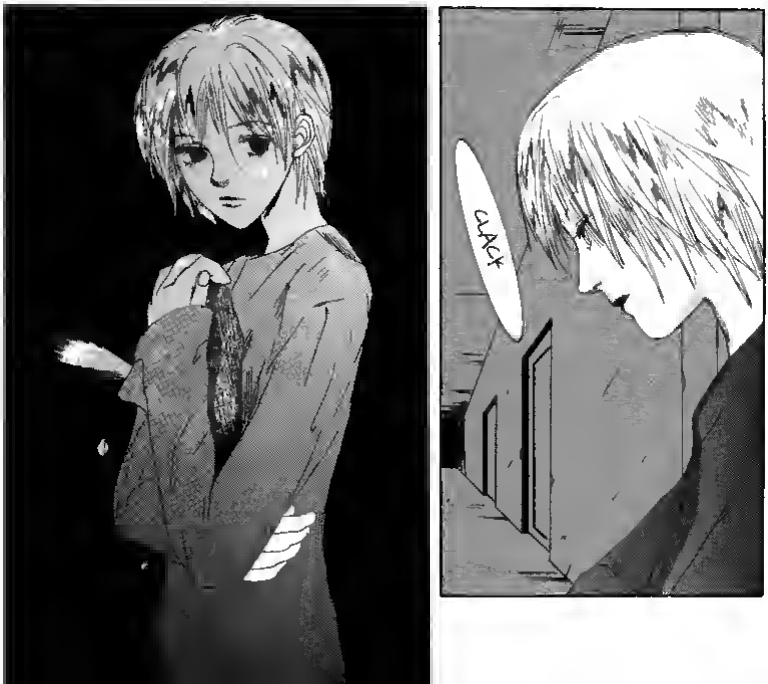
We design
every single thing.
Then they get born into the world.
Eh...? now, I'm in charge of cats.

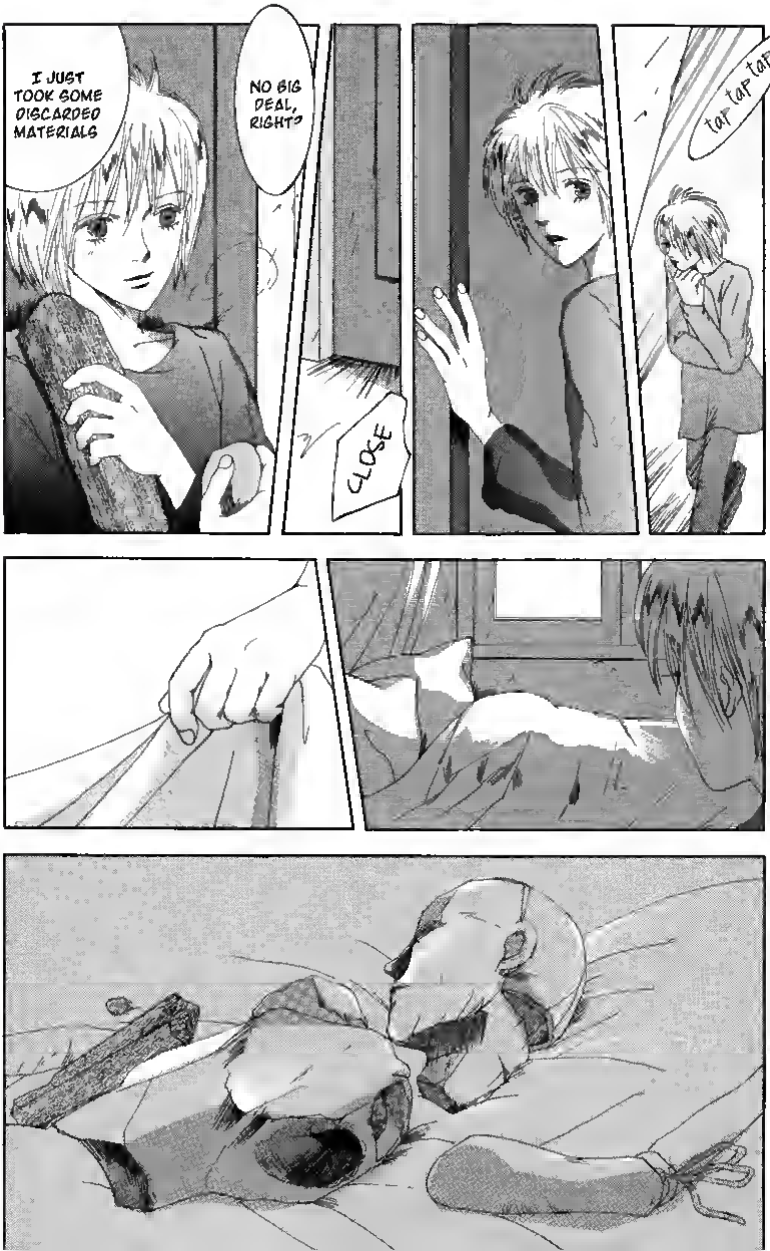
KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME.
ONE OF YOUR PAPERS WAS MIXED IN WITH OURS
THANKS FOR BRINGING IT ALL THE WAY HERE...
OH, IT'S YOU.
ARE YOU ALONE?
CAN I COME IN?
YEAH, THEY'RE ALL OUT.
COME IN.

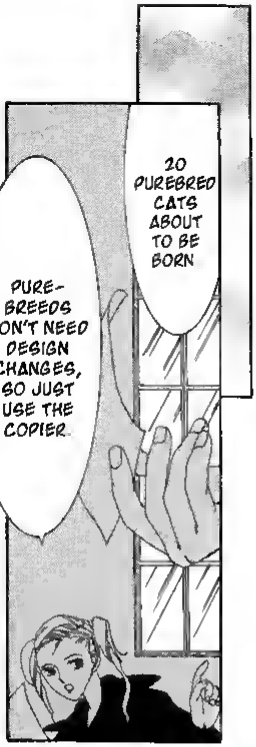
NICE
SEEMS FUN
YOU THINK IT'S FUN?
FUN OR NOT,
I DO IT BE-CAUSE IT'S MY JOB
ISN'T IT?
ISN'T IT THE SAME FOR YOU?
DO YOU FIND IT FUN MAKING NOTHING BUT CATS?
WELL

EVEN IF NOT EVERY HUMAN YOU MAKE IS GOOD?
IF I MADE HUMANS, I THINK I'D HAVE A LOT OF FUN.
BUT
AND I WANT TO MAKE HUMANS
ACTUALLY, IT'S CATS THAT I WANTED TO MAKE
TOTAL-LY...
THAT DIDN'T TURN OUT WELL FOR US, HUH?

I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT
YOU'RE GONNA BE BUSY WITH THAT
OH
THIS ONE'S URG-ENT

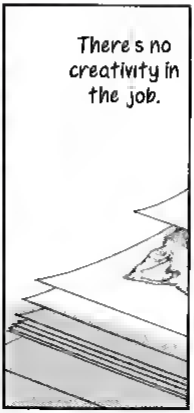

CLACK

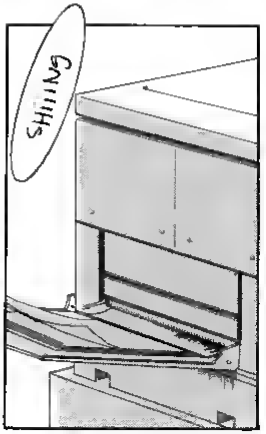

I JUST TOOK SOME DISCARDED MATERIALS
NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT?
CLOSE
tap tap tap


20 PUREBRED CATS ABOUT TO BE BORN
PURE-BREEDS DON'T NEED DESIGN CHANGES, SO JUST USE THE COPIER.

I WONDER IF I'LL BE KILLED
IF THEY FIND OUT I'M SECRETLY MAKING A HUMAN.

What's wrong with wanting to make some-thing unique?


There's no creativity in the job.

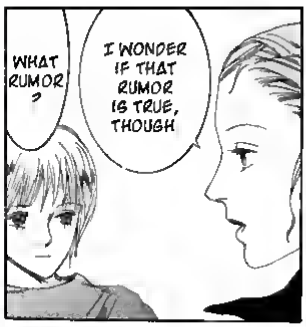

SHIIING

AND THAT'S FINE AND ALL IF THEY HAD SPECIAL SKILLS WE DON'T THAT ENABLE THEM TO CREATE HUMANS BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE
THEY'RE LIKE, "WE'RE THE ONES WHO MAKE THE INTELLIGENT BEINGS"

THANK YOU! NOW HELP ME WITH THIS.
DONE.

CAUSE EVERYONE THERE ACTS ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY.
WHY DO YOU HATE THE HUMAN-MAKERS?
HEY,

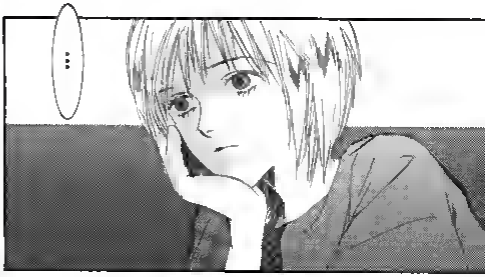
THOSE GUYS ARE SLIPPING
AND LOOK AT THE RESULT. THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY DECENT HUMANS BORN RECENTLY.


WHAT RUMOR?
I WONDER IF THAT RUMOR IS TRUE, THOUGH

—IT'S A HARD JOB...
He did look tired, come to think of it.

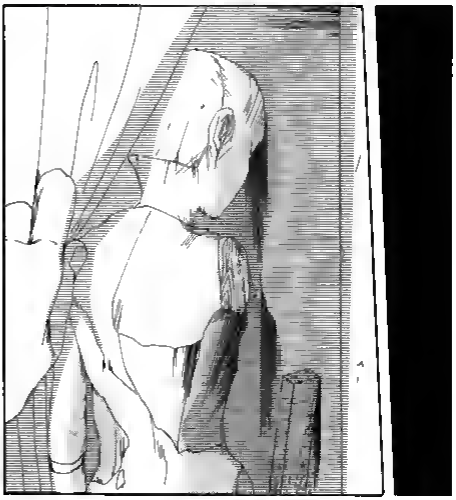
REALLY!?
!
THEY'RE GOING TO CHANGE WHAT WE'RE ASSIGNED TO?
THAT THEY'RE GOING TO RESHUFFLE THE ASSIGNMENTS.
EVERYTHING
...IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT?
IT'S ONE I DREW
ANYWAY, LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING FOR? IT'S CREEPY
I'm not good at making cats.
WHY WAS A CALICO BORN FROM TWO TIGER-STRIPED CATS?

Is it for the humans? For the cats?
It's that I don't know who I'm doing this for.
There are too many possibilities to consider.


...

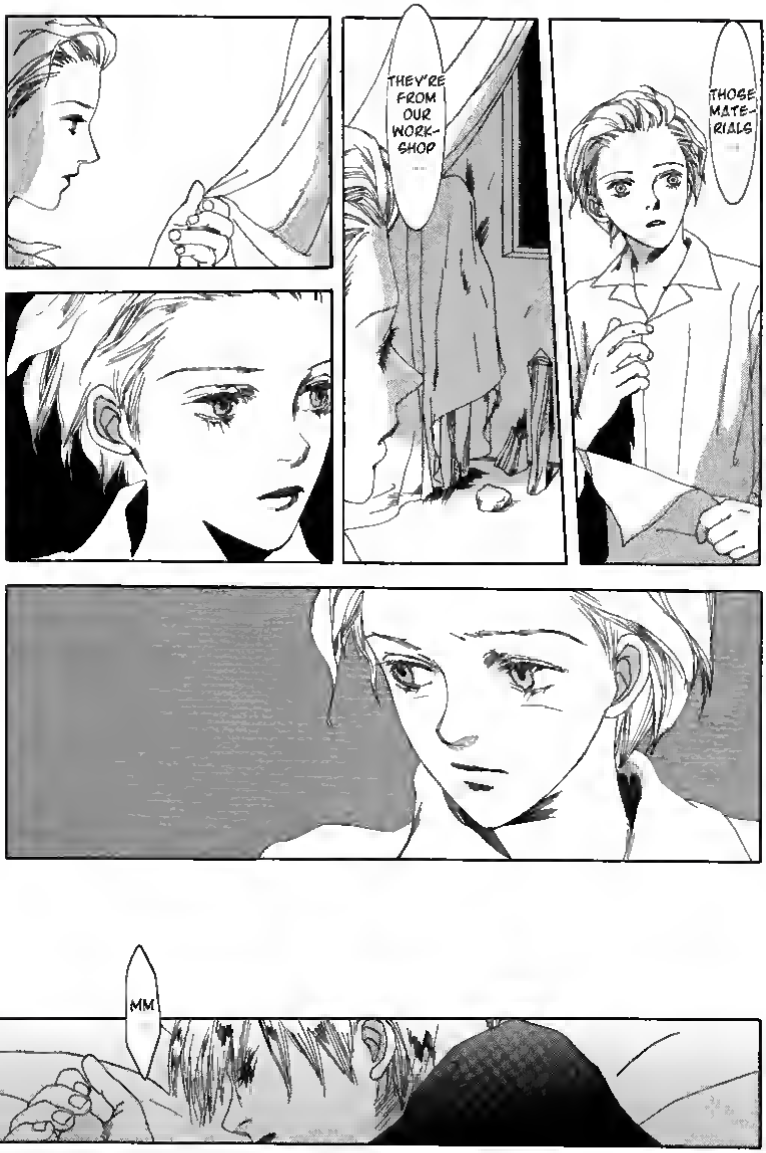
No.
It's not about having the skill.

That's why I want to make this person



I'll imagine
that whatever else I design will be to make her happy.
The girl I make will exist on Earth.
And when I think of that,
I'll imagine that the cats I'm making are for her.
If she becomes a human

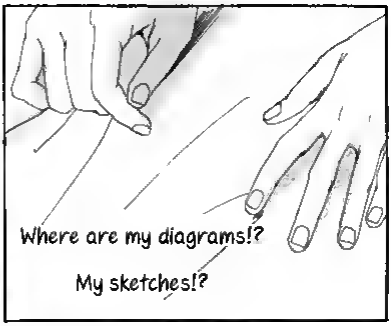
HE LEFT HIS WORK ALL OVER THE PLACE...
OH,
HUH?
HE'S ALREADY SLEEPING?
...CREAK
AH!?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
—DID YOU DRAW THIS...?
YOU IDIOT... NO ONE OUTSIDE THE HUMAN DIVISION IS ALLOWED TO MAKE HUMANS.


THEY'RE FROM OUR WORK-SHOP
THOSE MATE-RIALS
MM

I must have dozed off.

!!
FWIP

AH!


Where are my diagrams!?
My sketches!?

HUH?
THE FRAME ...

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE FOR THE HUMAN-MAKERS MIXED UP IN HERE
CAN YOU TAKE IT THERE?
Where is it
and who took it?
KNOCK KNOCK
RATTLE RATTLE
HUH?
...
PUFF

Time is passing me by.
Maybe I should make another one...?

I can't find my diagrams.
And I can't get more raw materials.

But I don't think I can make something as good as that again...

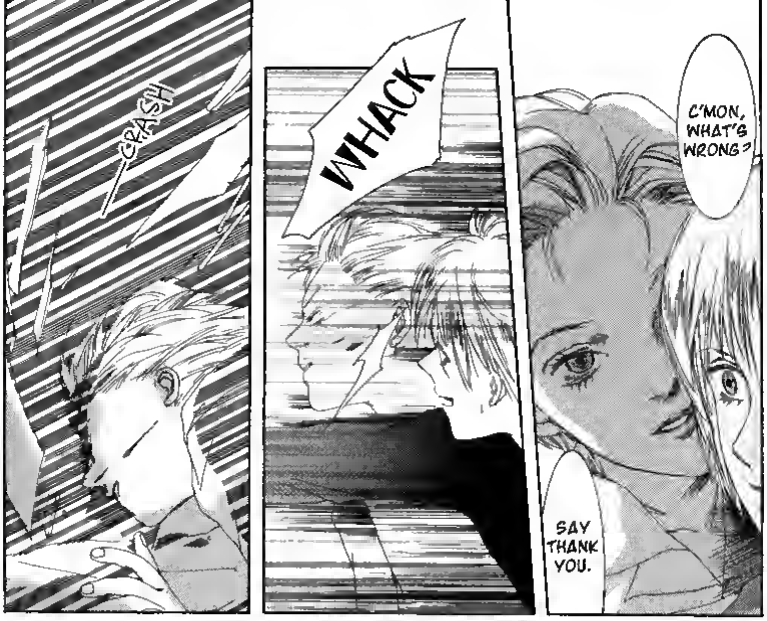
She became human!?

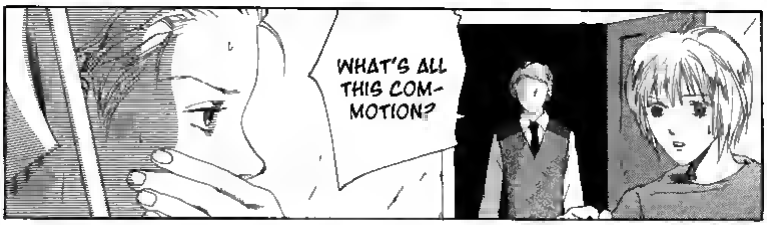
HEY, WATCH IT!
ARE YOU PLANNING TO BREAK THE DOOR!?
SLAM
I
HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU...
WELL, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME
THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING WITH THOSE MATERIALS YOU STOLE FROM HERE, HUH?
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF CATS

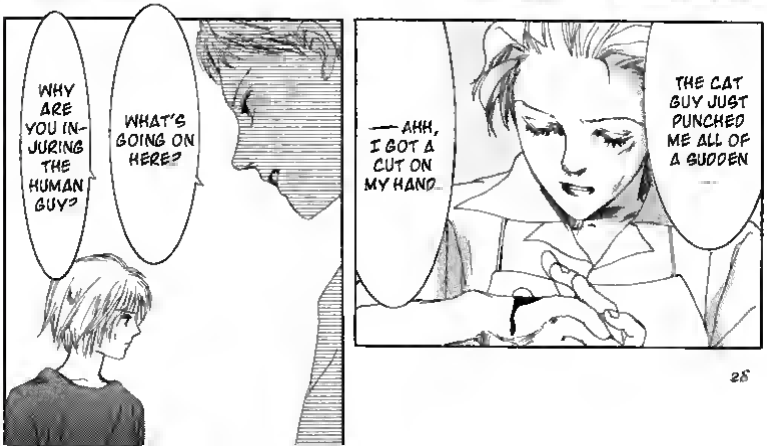
SO. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOOK THE MODEL I WAS WORKING ON!
IT WAS YOU!
YOU TOOK THE DIAGRAMS AND MADE HER HUMAN
WHY?
I WAS THE ONE WHO DREW THAT ...!
IT WAS MINE!
SHUT UP!!
YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO CATS AND YOU'RE CREATING HUMANS!
IT'S RECKLESS!!

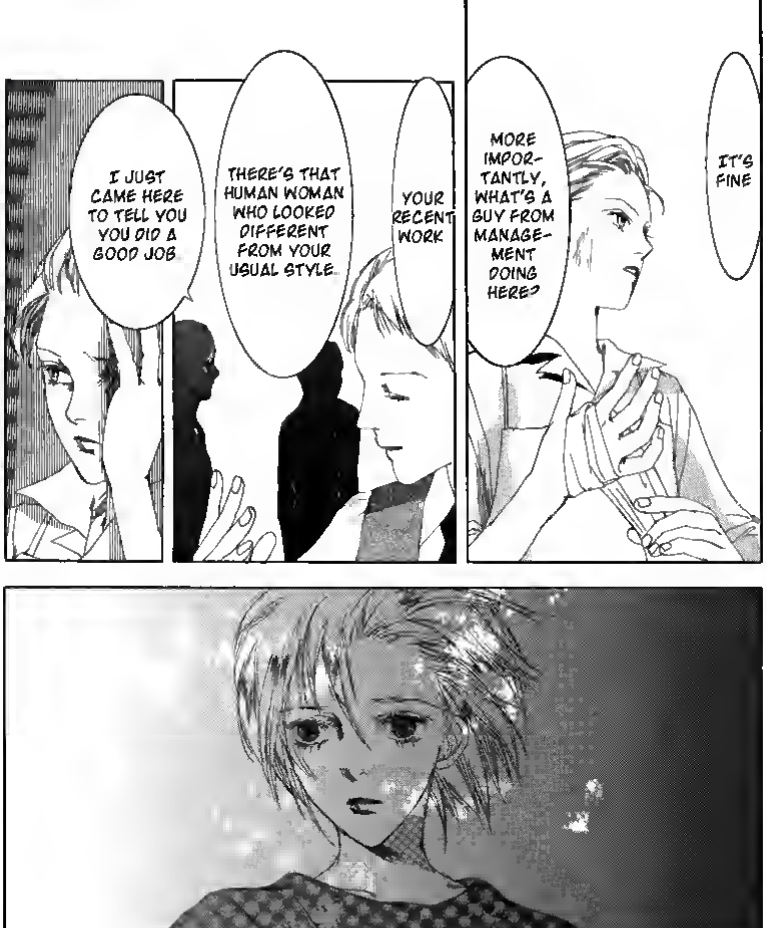
I DID IT TO COVER FOR WHAT YOU DID.
—YOU HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT.
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.

DID YOU COME HERE AGAIN TO GET MORE MATERIALS, HUH?
YOU TOTALLY TRICKED ME!
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE!


C'MON, WHAT'S WRONG?
WHACK
SAY THANK YOU.


WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMOTION?


THE CAT GUY JUST PUNCHED ME ALL OF A SUDDEN
—AHH, I GOT A CUT ON MY HAND
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WHY ARE YOU INJURING THE HUMAN GUY?

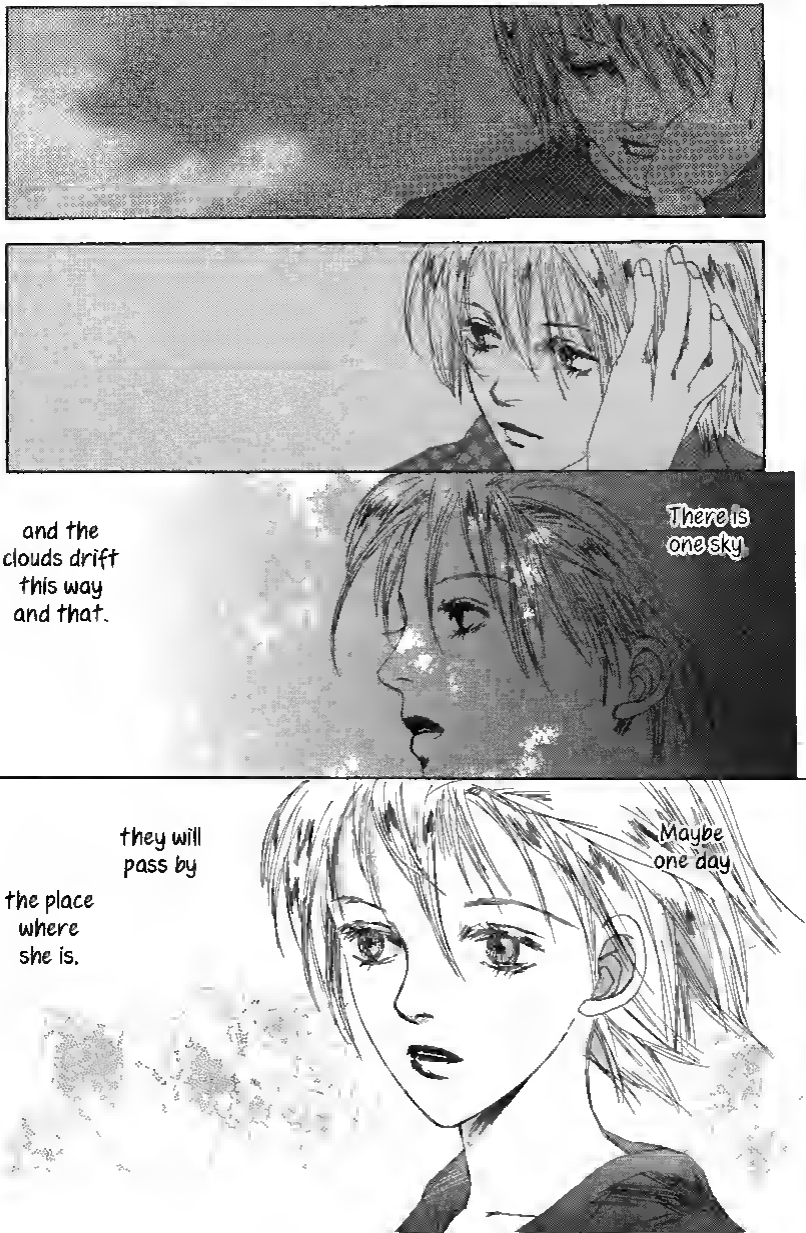

I JUST CAME HERE TO TELL YOU YOU DID A GOOD JOB
THERE'S THAT HUMAN WOMAN WHO LOOKED DIFFERENT FROM YOUR USUAL STYLE
YOUR RECENT WORK
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, WHAT'S A GUY FROM MANAGE-MENT DOING HERE?
IT'S FINE

After that, I got my new assignment.

What I'm making in my new assign-ment
is not a living thing.
It's some-thing that drifts far from the ground.
Clouds

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I WAS THINK-ING
ABOUT HOW FAR AWAY ...
I'VE BEEN MOVED ...

WITH THAT GIRL ON THE GROUND.
WILL NEVER CROSS PATHS
THE THINGS I'LL BE MAKING HERE
I wanted to find a reason for making things.
Instead,
I lost sight of it.


and the clouds drift this way and that.
There is one sky
they will pass by
the place where she is.
Maybe one day

I DON'T KNOW WHY, I JUST LOVE THEM
YEAH, THAT HAPPENS
LIKE IT BREAKS MY HEART
I GUESS THAT'S WEIRD?
LIKE IT LIFTS MY SPIRITS JUST LOOKING AT THEM

WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY LIKE THAT MUCH?
HUH
DON'T LAUGH, OKAY?
THAT WHITENESS...

THAT'S ALWAYS IN THE SKY——

思考少年【下】

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